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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re Patent Application of:

Inventors: Charles K. SNODGRASS et al.

Serial No.: 08/619,274

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Title: Data Communication Method Using Identification

Protocol

Examiner: Sotomayor, J.

Group Art Unit: 2201

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments before examining the above-identified partitions application.

In the Claims

24. A method for one of a plurality of responder transceivers to respond to interrogation messages from two or more commander transceivers, wherein the responder is characterized by an address, and wherein each of the interrogation messages specifies a set of one or more addresses for response, comprising the steps of:

- (a) upon receiving a first interrogation message from a first one of the commander transceivers, said one responder transceiver determining whether the first interrogation message specifies for response a set of one or more addresses which includes the responder's address, and
- (1) if so, then said responder transceiver transmitting a response message to the first commander transceiver, otherwise
- (2) if not, then said responder transceiver initiating a waiting period of time during which the responder will not transmit a response message to any subsequent interrogation message which the responder may receive from any other one of the commander transceivers, wherein the waiting period is great enough that any response message transmitted by the responder after the waiting period would not collide with any response message transmitted by any other one of the responder transceivers in response to said first interrogation message; and
 - (b) upon receiving a second interrogation message from a second one of the commander



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